

# Linux Security Checklist

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## Introduction

This checklist can be used to audit an existing Linux system, or as a system hardening document for Linux administrators tasked with setting up a new Linux system. This checklist does not provide vendor-specific security issues, but attempts to provide a generic listing of security considerations to be used when auditing or configuring a Linux machine.

Security is complex and constantly changing. In addition to this checklist, consult the web site of your Linux distribution and the individual software packages that are loaded onto the system. Most Linux distributions have their own recommendations regarding security. RedHat has documented their recommendations at:

<http://www.redhat.com/docs/manuals/linux/RHL-9-Manual/security-guide/>.

Gentoo Linux has a security handbook at:

<http://www.gentoo.org/doc/en/security/index.xml>

Debian's security statement and recommendations can be found at:

<http://www.debian.org/security/>

You should also join or otherwise monitor security-related mailing lists, or RSS feeds, such as those at <http://security-focus.com/> and <http://www.sans.org>.

When implementing system security, there are several fundamental concepts that can go a long way in keeping your system secure. Patch management (keeping software up-to-date) and system hardening (disabling unnecessary services) are vital, but so are overall security policies, change management, and log file audits. A good approach to Linux security is to establish your baseline checklist for secure installation and system hardening, followed by ongoing policy and procedures to ensure your system stays secure.

This document provides steps you can take to minimize your risk when installing a new Linux system. Security is all about risk reduction. The checklist items defined below do not remove your risk of system compromise, but provide you with safety measures that can help reduce your overall chance of compromise.

## Checklist

No.	Security Elements
1.	<p><b><i>Boot and Rescue Disk</i></b></p> <p>If you install Linux from a download or over the network, you can create a boot disk manually. The 'mkbootdisk' command is included on most systems. This is the same command that is used during installation to create a boot disk. You must specify a device and a kernel to use.</p> <pre>mkbootdisk --device /dev/fd0 `uname -r`</pre> <p>(Note: `uname -r` returns the kernel version.)</p> <p>Also, have a couple of rescue disks ready. There are many rescue disks available at <a href="ftp://metalab.unc.edu/pub/Linux/system/recovery">ftp://metalab.unc.edu/pub/Linux/system/recovery</a>; Good choices are: Tomsbtrt at: <a href="http://www.toms.net/rb">http://www.toms.net/rb</a> and Knoppix at: <a href="http://www.knoppix.org">http://www.knoppix.org</a> (a complete Linux system on CD). You can download or purchase the CD, but make sure you choose the bootable option.</p>
2.	<p><b><i>System Patches</i></b></p> <p>Most Linux systems work with either rpm (RedHat Package Manager, also used by Mandrake and Suse), apt/dpkg (Debian Package Manager), or YUM (Yellowdog Linux Manager). You can update specific software individually using these commands, or use your vendor's updating tools, if available. RedHat has a very nice managed support option available through RedHat Network that can help you manage many RedHat servers. The managed support option uses the up2date command, which will automatically resolve dependencies. Manual updates from rpm files can be frustrating, since the rpm command simply reports on dependencies – it doesn't resolve them for you. For information on RedHat Network services, visit: <a href="https://rhn.redhat.com/rhn/help/quickstart.jsp">https://rhn.redhat.com/rhn/help/quickstart.jsp</a>. RHN services are generally free for the first 90 days after installation, after which you must purchase entitlements to continue.</p> <p>If you are stuck with an older Linux and you can't upgrade, check out the limited support at the Fedora Legacy Project, <a href="http://www.fedoralegacy.org/">http://www.fedoralegacy.org/</a></p> <p>For details on the rpm command, type 'man rpm' to view the man pages on the Linux system, or review online help. The Linux Documentation Project has many HOWTOs, including one for RPM at:</p>

<http://www.ibiblio.org/pub/Linux/docs/HOWTO/RPM-HOWTO>

The Debian package system will resolve any dependency problems, rather than simply report on them (as the rpm system does). For details on the apt command, which is used to load Debian packages, see:

<http://www.debian.org/doc/manuals/users-guide/ch-irous.en.html>

Regardless of the Linux vendor you've chosen, you'll need some way in which to keep informed of vulnerabilities in the software. There are many mailing lists that will send you vulnerability notices for selected operating system software. Here are just a few:

<http://www.sans.org/newsletters/>

<http://www.securityfocus.com/>

<http://www.cert.org/>

### 3. ***Disabling Unnecessary Services***

Hardening systems by eliminating unnecessary services can enhance security and improve overall system performance. To begin, you first need to know which services are running on your system. Since services run in various ways, there are several places to check.

# ps -ax → will list all currently running processes

# ls -l /etc/rc.d/rc3.d/S\* → will show all start-up scripts (if you boot into graphics mode, replace rc3.d with rc5.d)

# netstat -a → will list all open ports

# chkconfig -list → will show the current startup status of all processes known by chkconfig

Ideally, you should see only those ports that must be open to provide the functionality required by the system.

To disable services, you can remove the startup script, or use a command such as chkconfig. There are two steps to stopping a service: 1) stop the currently running services, and 2) change the configuration so that the services doesn't start on the next reboot.

To stop the running service:

# service stop nfs

To stop the service at startup time, use the chkconfig command or remove the startup script. To use chkconfig:

# /sbin/chkconfig --levels 2345 netfs off

To remove the startup script:

# /bin/mv /etc/rc.d/rc5.d/S25netfs /etc/rc.d/rc5.d/K25netfs

Some services may need to be removed from /etc/inetd.conf or /etc/xinetd.d. This is detailed in the [Xinetd](#) section of this document

### 4. ***Check for Security on Key Files***

- /etc/fstab: make sure the owner & group are set to root.root and the permissions are set to 0644 (-rw-r--r--)
- verify that /etc/passwd, /etc/shadow & /etc/group are all owned by 'root'
- verify that permissions on /etc/passwd & /etc/group are rw-r--r-- (644)
- verify that permissions on /etc/shadow are r----- (400)

### 5. ***Default Password Policy***

Ensure the default system password policy matches your organization password policy. These settings are stored in /etc/login.defs and should minimally contain settings for the following. For a complete list of options, see the online man page at:

	<p><a href="http://www.tin.org/bin/man.cgi?section=5&amp;topic=login.defs">http://www.tin.org/bin/man.cgi?section=5&amp;topic=login.defs</a></p> <p>PASS_MAX_DAYS 90  PASS_MIN_DAYS 6  PASS_MIN_LEN 14  PASS_WARN_AGE 7</p>
6.	<p><b><i>Limit root access using SUDO</i></b></p> <p>Sudo allows an administrator to provide certain users the ability to run some commands as root, while logging all sudo activity. Sudo operates on a per-command basis. The sudoers file controls command access. Your Linux distribution should have specifics on how to configure your distribution. There is help available online as well: <a href="http://www.linuxhelp.net/guides/sudo/">http://www.linuxhelp.net/guides/sudo/</a></p>
7.	<p><b><i>Only allow root to access CRON</i></b></p> <p>The cron daemon is used to schedule processes. The <i>crontab</i> command is used to create personal crontab entries for users or the root account. To enhance security of the cron scheduler, you can establish the <i>cron.deny</i> and <i>cron.allow</i> files to control use of the crontab. The following commands will establish root as the only user with permission to add cron jobs.</p> <pre>cd /etc/ /bin/rm -f cron.deny at.deny echo root &gt;cron.allow echo root &gt;at.allow /bin/chown root:root cron.allow at.allow /bin/chmod 400 cron.allow at.allow</pre>
8.	<p><b><i>Warning Banners</i></b></p> <p>If your policy requires a warning banner, you can easily create one by copying the appropriate banner message to the following files.</p> <pre>/etc/motd /etc/issue /etc/issue.net</pre> <p>add 'GreetString="Authorized Use Only"' to /etc/X11/xdm/kdmrc and make a similar change to gdm.conf</p> <p>Here is a sample banner message: "Authorized Use Only. Transactions may be monitored. By continuing past this point, you expressly consent to this monitoring."</p>
9.	<p><b><i>Remote Access and SSH Basic Settings</i></b></p> <p>Telnet is not recommended for remote access. Secure Shell (SSH) provides encrypted telnet-like access and is considered a secure alternative to telnet. However, older versions of SSH have vulnerabilities and should not be used. To disable SSH version 1 and enhance the overall security of SSH, consider making the following changes to your <i>sshd_config</i> file:</p> <pre>Protocol 2 PermitRootLogin no PermitEmptyPasswords no Banner /etc/issue IgnoreRhosts yes RhostsAuthentication no RhostsRSAAuthentication no HostbasedAuthentication no LoginGraceTime 1m (or less – default is 2 minutes) SyslogFacility AUTH (provides logging under syslog AUTH)</pre>

AllowUser *[list of users allowed access]*  
DenyUser *[list of system accounts and others not allowed]*  
MaxStartups 10 (or less – use 1/3 the total number of remote users)  
*Note: MaxStartups refers to the max number of simultaneous unauthenticated connections. This setting can be helpful against a brute-force script that performs forking.*

Some folks also suggest running ssh on an alternate port, although others consider this to be ‘security through obscurity’. Regardless of your opinion, it’s very easy to change the port that ssh runs on by simply changing the “Port” setting in the sshd\_config file, then stopping and restarting ssh. Running ssh on an alternate port will help you avoid port scanners that are looking for open port 22 and the scripted brute-force attempts on this port.

You can block such brute-force ssh attacks with a package like denyhosts (<http://denyhosts.sourceforge.net/>), which utilizes tcpwrappers (see below). Alternatively, use your iptables firewall (see below) to limit access by IP address or host/domain name.

For additional ssh security, you can configure key forwarding. The following link covers the extra functionality of agent key forwarding within ssh:  
<http://www.unixwiz.net/techtips/ssh-agent-forwarding.html>

10. ***Host-based Firewall Protection with iptables***

Many versions of Linux now come with iptables automatically enabled and configured during installation. RedHat creates /etc/sysconfig/iptables, based on the services you answer as ‘allowed’ during installation. Here is a basic sample script, created for a server running ssh (port 22), smtp (port 25), squid proxy (port 3128) and samba (netbios port 137). The server’s IP is 192.168.1.2 and it is part of a class C network. In the example, we want to accept these services and block all others. If the requested service is not accepted by one of the ACCEPT lines, the packet falls through and is logged and rejected.

```
# Firewall configuration written by redhat-config-securitylevel
# Manual customization of this file is not recommended.
*filter
:INPUT ACCEPT [0:0]
:FORWARD ACCEPT [0:0]
:OUTPUT ACCEPT [0:0]
:RH-Firewall-1-INPUT - [0:0]
-A INPUT -j RH-Firewall-1-INPUT
-A FORWARD -j RH-Firewall-1-INPUT
-A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -i lo -j ACCEPT
-A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -p icmp --icmp-type any -j ACCEPT
-A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -p 50 -j ACCEPT
-A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -p 51 -j ACCEPT
-A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -m state --state ESTABLISHED,RELATED -j
ACCEPT
-A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -m state --state NEW -m tcp -p tcp --
dport 53 -j ACCEPT
-A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -m state --state NEW -m udp -p udp --
dport 53 -j ACCEPT
-A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -m state --state NEW -m tcp -p tcp --
dport 25 -j ACCEPT
-A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -m state --state NEW -m tcp -p tcp --
dport 22 -j ACCEPT
-A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -m state --state NEW -m tcp -p tcp --
dport 3128 -j ACCEPT
```

```
-A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -s 192.168.1.0/24 -d 192.168.1.2 --dport
137 -j ACCEPT
-A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -s 192.168.1.2 -d 192.168.1.255 -j ACCEPT
-A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -d 255.255.255.255 -j DROP
-A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -d 192.168.1.255 -j DROP
-A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -j LOG
-A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -j REJECT --reject-with icmp-host-
prohibited
COMMIT
```

11. ***Xinetd and inetd.conf***

If running the older `/etc/inetd.conf` file, be sure to disable unnecessary services by removing them (or commenting them out) from the `inetd.conf` file. For example, to remove telnet access, remove the following line:

```
telnet stream tcp nowait root /usr/sbin/telnetd telnetd
-a
```

On systems running scripts from the `xinetd.d` directory, disable the services by changing the script from `'disable = no'` to `'disable = yes'`. A sample `xinetd.d` script and various ACL settings are included in the [tcpwrappers](#) section.

You will need to send a HUP signal to the `inetd` process after modifying the configuration files (`kill -HUP processID`)

12. ***tcpwrappers***

TCP Wrappers allows control of services based on hostname and IP addresses. Additionally this tool contains logging and user administration. `Tcpwrappers` is a daemon that positions itself between detailed inquiries and the requested service, and checks the requestor's IP against the `hosts.allow` and `hosts.deny` files.

In the traditional `inetd.conf` file, you can run `tcpwrappers` by calling `tcpd` (the `tcpwrappers` daemon) as follows:

```
# first comment out the original line:
#telnet stream tcp nowait root /usr/sbin/telnetd telnetd
-a
# then replace it with the modified line:
telnet stream tcp nowait root /usr/sbin/tcpd telnetd
-a
```

Standard Linuxes don't have `tcpwrappers` built into `xinetd`, since `xinetd` already includes logging and access control features. However, if you want to add this further control you can re-compile `xinetd` with `libwrap` support by passing `'--with-libwrap'` as an option to the `configure` script. When `xinetd` is compiled with `libwrap` support, all services can use the `/etc/hosts.allow` and `/etc/hosts.deny` access control. `xinetd` can also be configured to use `tcpd` in the traditional `inetd` style. This requires the use of the `NAMEINARGS` flag and the real daemon name must be passed in as `server_args`. Here is an example for using telnet with `tcpd`:

```
service telnet
{
    flags          = REUSE NAMEINARGS
    protocol       = tcp
    socket_type    = stream
    wait           = no
    user           = telnetd
    server         = /usr/sbin/tcpd
    server_args    = /usr/sbin/in.telnetd
}
```

To use settings within xinetd scripts to control access by IP for specific services, simply change the appropriate xinetd scripts, for example:

```
service imap
{
    socket_type      = stream
    protocol         = tcp
    wait            = no
    user            = root
    only_from       = 198.72.5.0 localhost
    banner          = /usr/local/etc/deny_banner
    server          = /usr/local/sbin/imapd
}
```

Here are some other helpful settings:

To deny certain IPs or domains:

```
no_access = 10.0.5.12 bad.domain.com
```

To specify limits on connections – total number of ssh connections:

```
instances = 10
```

Maximum number of connections per IP address:

```
per_source = 3
```

To specify allowed access times:

```
access_times = 8:00-17:00
```

### 13. ***System Logging***

All Linux systems support system logging, which is important for troubleshooting system and network problems, as well as possible security incidents. Syslog is the daemon that controls logging on Linux systems. Logging configuration is stored in `/etc/syslog.conf`. This file identifies the level of logging and the location of the log files. Log files should be owned by root user and group, so that they are not available to the casual user.

It is recommended that log entries be logged to a centralized log server, preferably over ssh for data confidentiality. Centralized logging protects from deletion of log files and provides another layer in the event the log files are tampered with. This is easily accomplished as follows:

```
# send to syslog server
*.emerg;*.info;*.err @hostname
```

For more information on `syslog.conf` settings, view the man page by typing `'man syslog.conf'`.

Next Generation syslog is more customizable than syslog and supports digital signatures to prevent log tampering. It is available at:

<http://freshmeat.net/projects/syslog-ng/>

Auditing your log files:

Regardless of the software used to create the log files, good security includes the ongoing review of log file entries. This can become very tedious if your only tool is to manually read the logs. Fortunately, there are some very good open-source packages to help:

*Logwatch*: comes standard with many Linux distributions. Configuration of logwatch is done in the /etc/log.d directory. The script logwatch.conf allows you to set defaults, such as the level of detail, the services to include, and the log file names. Reports can be sent directly to your email and include data such as: firewall rejects, ftp uploads/downloads, disk space usage, sendmail statistics, etc.

*Swatch*: is an active log file-monitoring tool. Swatch uses regular expressions to find lines of interest. Once swatch finds a line that matches a pattern, it takes an action, such as printing it to the screen, emailing it, or taking a user-defined action.

To use swatch to check logs normally, run:

```
swatch --config-file=/etc/swatch.conf --  
examine=/var/log/messages
```

To use swatch as a constantly running service that scans lines of a log file as they come in, run:

```
swatch --config-file=/etc/swatch.conf --tail-  
file=/var/log/messages
```

Don't forget email security when sending your log files via email, which flows in plain text from source to destination mailbox. You may want to encrypt the logfiles with something like GnuPG before sending them. Visit: [www.gnupg.org](http://www.gnupg.org) for more information.

There are dozens of other tools available to analyze and audit syslog messages. The important point to remember is to pick a tool and make sure someone is responsible for log file auditing on a regular basis.

#### 14. **Backups**

There are many non-commercial and commercial backup programs available for Linux. We'll highlight the non-commercial tools here. A google search for 'linux backup software' should provide you with enough commercial options to choose from.

*tar, gzip, bzip2*: these tools have been around a long time and they are still a viable option for many people. Almost any \*nix system will contain tar and gzip, so they will rarely require special installation or configuration. However, backing up large amounts of data across a network may be slow using these tools.

To backup a list of directories into a single tar archive, simply run the tar command to create the tarball, followed by the gzip command to compress it:

```
tar -cvf archive-name.tar dir1 dir2 dir3....  
gzip -9 archive-name.tar
```

You may prefer to use bzip2, which is a bit better than gzip at compressing text, but it is quite a bit slower.

You can combine the tar and gzip actions in one command by using tar's -z option.

*Rsync*: rsync is an ideal way to move data between servers. It is very efficient for maintaining large directory trees in synch (not real time), and is relatively easy to configure and secure. rsync does not encrypt the data however so you should use something like SSH or IPsec if the data is sensitive (SSH is easiest, simply use "-e ssh"). Rsync (by Martin Pool) is available at:

<http://freshmeat.net/projects/rsync/>

*Amanda*: is a client-server based network backup program with support for \*nix and Windows (via samba). It is available from <http://www.amanda.org>

*dump*: is written specifically for backups. It backs up the entire file system and allows multiple levels of backups. The corresponding 'restore' command allows for restore from a dump backup. For example, to backup /boot file system to backup.boot:

```
dump 0zf backup.boot /boot
```

See 'man dump' for a complete list of options.

15. ***Integrity-checking Software***

Integrity checking/assurance software monitors the reliability of critical files by checking them at regular intervals and notifying the system administrator of any changes. This type of software is very useful in identifying unauthorized changes to configuration files, log files, services, as well as identifying the presence of Trojans, rootkits, and other malicious code.

There are several integrity-checking packages available. Most Linux distros come with a barebones version of a commercial package. Commercial Tripwire support is available (for a fee) and can include an excellent management console to provide central control for recreating your policy files and databases. Aide is an advanced Intrusion Detection system that aims to be a free replacement to Tripwire. Samhain is another open-source option.

<http://tripwire.org/>

<http://sourceforge.net/projects/aide>

<http://sourceforge.net/projects/samhain>

16. ***Apache Security (all \*nix)***

There are entire books dedicated to apache security. We will hit some of the high-level suggestions here. Detailed help can be found at <http://httpd.apache.org/>

First, verify that your apache subdirectories are all owned by root and have a mod of 755:

```
[user@host xinetd.d]$ ls -l /etc/apache
drwxr-xr-x 7 root root 4096 Aug 23 10:24 conf
drwxr-xr-x 2 root root 4096 Aug 27 08:44 logs
(your Apache installation may be located at /usr/local/apache or
elsewhere if you installed it yourself)
```

```
[user@host xinetd.d]$ ls -l /usr/sbin/*http*
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 259488 Aug 2 05:22 /usr/sbin/httpd
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 270248 Aug 2 05:22
/usr/sbin/httpd.worker
```

Likewise, your httpd binary should be owned by root, with a mod of 511. You can create a web documents subdirectory outside the normal Apache filetree as your DocumentRoot (/var/www/html in RedHat), which is modifiable by other users -- since root never executes any files out of there, and shouldn't be creating files in there.

*Server side includes (SSI)* create additional risks, since SSI-enabled files can execute any CGI script or program under the permissions of the user and group apache runs as (as configured in httpd.conf). To disable the ability to run scripts and programs from SSI pages, replace "Includes" with "IncludesNOEXEC" in the options directive. Users may still use <!--#include virtual="..." --> to execute

CGI scripts if these scripts are in directories designated by a ScriptAlias directive.

*Script Aliased CGI:* is recommended over non-script aliased CGI. Limiting CGI to special directories gives the administrator control over which scripts can be run.

**System Settings:**

To prevent users from setting up .htaccess files that can override security features, change the server configuration file to include:

```
<Directory />
    AllowOverride None
</Directory>
```

To prevent users from accessing the entire filesystem (starting with the root directory), add the following to your server configuration file:

```
<Directory />
    Order Deny,Allow
    Deny from all
</Directory>
```

To provide access into individual directories, add the following:

```
<Directory /usr/users/*/public_html>
    Order Deny,Allow
    Allow from all
</Directory>
<Directory /usr/local/httpd>
    Order Deny,Allow
    Allow from all
</Directory>
```

If you are using Apache 1.3 or above, apache recommends that you include the following line in your server configuration files:

```
UserDir disabled root
```

17. ***Apache Mod\_security module***

The mod\_security module runs on most versions of Apache, but you will most likely be required to install it from source (check with your Linux distribution). You can download the latest source code from [www.modsecurity.org](http://www.modsecurity.org) and compile it using apxs or apxs2. Detailed instructions can be found in the ModSecurity User Guide or the source code's INSTALL file.

Mod\_security allows you to enhance the overall security of your apache web server by providing additional configuration settings within your httpd.conf file. These settings allow you to filter/inspect all traffic, or filter/inspect non-static traffic only (DynamicOnly). You can then set the default action for matching requests – for example, displaying a standard error page. In addition, you can specify allowable ASCII values and set restrictions for file uploads.

Mod\_security also provides much more logging than the default for apache. More information can be found at [www.modsecurity.org](http://www.modsecurity.org)

18. ***Xwindow***

X window can be a large security risk considering the many exploits for the product and since its data flows unencrypted across networks. A good method of configuring access to X servers is to tunnel X window sessions through SSH (secure shell). This is referred to as X11 forwarding. SSH provides the advantage of adding encryption to tunneled X sessions. A document from Stanford University provides a security check to test existing X servers and

	describes the steps involved to connect to an X server via SSH: <a href="http://www.stanford.edu/services/securecomputing/x-window/">http://www.stanford.edu/services/securecomputing/x-window/</a>
19.	<p><b><i>LIDS (Linux Intrusion Detection System)</i></b> LIDS is an enhancement for the Linux kernel written by Xie Huagang and Philippe Biondi. It implements several security features that are not in the Linux kernel natively. Some of these include: mandatory access controls (MAC), a port scan detector, file protection (even from root), and process protection. LIDS implements access control lists (ACLs) that will help prevent even those with access to the root account from wreaking havoc on a system. These ACLs allow LIDS to protect files as well as processes.</p> <p>For more information on LIDS: <a href="http://www.lids.org/">http://www.lids.org/</a></p>
20.	<p><b><i>Selinux (Security Enhanced Linux)</i></b> Developed by the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA), Security-enhanced Linux is a research prototype of the Linux® kernel and a number of utilities with enhanced security functionality designed simply to demonstrate the value of mandatory access controls to the Linux community and how such controls could be added to Linux.</p> <p>The Security-enhanced Linux kernel enforces mandatory access control policies that confine user programs and system servers to the minimum amount of privilege they require to do their jobs. When confined in this way, the ability of these user programs and system daemons to cause harm when compromised (via buffer overflows or misconfigurations, for example) is reduced or eliminated. This confinement mechanism operates independently of the traditional Linux access control mechanisms. It has no concept of a "root" super-user, and does not share the well-known shortcomings of the traditional Linux security mechanisms (such as a dependence on setuid/setgid binaries).</p> <p>Implementing SE Linux can have unexpected effects on a system, and you may find standard daemons won't run properly, or at all, or logfiles may not be writable, or other similar effects that require detailed configuration of SE Linux</p> <p>Currently, RedHat Enterprise Linux Version 4 includes an implementation of SE Linux.</p> <p>For more information on SE Linux: <a href="http://www.nsa.gov/selinux/">http://www.nsa.gov/selinux/</a></p>
21.	<p><b><i>Email Security</i></b> Many sys-admins disable the sendmail utility on user workstations, and centralize its service on a main mailserver machine. Even in this situation, there's more you can do to increase its security.</p> <p>For sendmail, follow the recommended security settings for secure installation: <a href="http://www.sendmail.org/security/secure-install.html">http://www.sendmail.org/security/secure-install.html</a>. It is possible to configure sendmail to launch when needed, rather than run it as a listening daemon on port 25.</p> <p>Postfix is a good alternative to sendmail. Information is available at: <a href="http://www.postfix.org/">http://www.postfix.org/</a></p>
22.	<p><b><i>File Sharing</i></b> There are many methods of file sharing among Linux systems. Opening up a system for file sharing may not be acceptable within your organizational policy.</p>

	<p>We provide information here for those who require this type of access.</p> <p>For information on NFS security (for sharing *nix-to-*nix), see:  <a href="http://www.linuxsecurity.com/content/view/117705/49/">http://www.linuxsecurity.com/content/view/117705/49/</a></p> <p>Samba is a software package that offers file sharing between Linux and Windows systems. It can be configured to use encrypted password access, restriction by user and/or IP address, and file-level permissions can be set. Samba is available at: <a href="http://www.samba.org">www.samba.org</a>.</p> <p>A good article describing the various Samba security modes is available at:  <a href="http://www.redhat.com/docs/manuals/enterprise/RHEL-4-Manual/ref-guide/s1-samba-security-modes.html">http://www.redhat.com/docs/manuals/enterprise/RHEL-4-Manual/ref-guide/s1-samba-security-modes.html</a></p>
23.	<p><b><i>Encryption</i></b></p> <p>If the system will be storing confidential data and you need to minimize the risk of data exposure, encryption may be an acceptable solution. Sourceforge has a web page that attempts to provide a disk encryption HOWTO for Linux users. It is available here:  <a href="http://encryptionhowto.sourceforge.net/Encryption-HOWTO.html">http://encryptionhowto.sourceforge.net/Encryption-HOWTO.html</a></p> <p>Depending on your needs, openPGP and/or GnuPG may be appropriate. These tools will allow you to encrypt emails and attachments, as well as files stored on disk. GnuPG is available at: <a href="http://www.gnupg.org">www.gnupg.org</a> and OpenPGP can be found at: <a href="http://www.openpgp.org">www.openpgp.org</a>.</p>
24.	<p><b><i>Anti-Virus Protection</i></b></p> <p>There are several anti-virus options available for Linux users and the list continues to grow. Here are a few:  Clamav: <a href="http://www.clamav.net">www.clamav.net</a>  f-prot: <a href="http://www.f-prot.com/products/corporate_users/unix/">www.f-prot.com/products/corporate_users/unix/</a>  Vexira: <a href="http://www.centralcommand.com/linux_server.html">www.centralcommand.com/linux_server.html</a></p>
25.	<p><b><i>Bastille Linux</i></b></p> <p>A hardening program for RedHat, SUSE, Debian, Gentoo, and Mandrake distributions, Bastille Linux attempts to lock down a Linux server. It walks the user through a series of questions and builds a policy based on the answers. Bastille Linux was conceived by a group of SANS conference attendees and is available at: <a href="http://www.bastille-linux.org/">http://www.bastille-linux.org/</a></p>

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